

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 3 is amended; Claim 14 is added; and no claims are cancelled herewith. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claim 3 was objected to; Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,782,319 to Woodruff; and Claims 1 and 4-13 were indicated as allowed.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner indicating that Claims 1 and 4-13 are allowed.

With respect to the objection to Claim 3, Claim 3 is amended by the present amendment to clarify the claimed features. Withdrawal of the objection to Claim 3 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Woodruff, that rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, Applicant submits that the applied art does not teach or suggest a connecting member pivotally connected to connecting portions of pivot levers, the connecting portions located on opposite ends of the connecting member along a plane formed by a longitudinal axis of the connecting member, and an electromagnetic actuator that moves the connecting member in a first direction to pivot the pivot levers in a braking direction and to move the connecting member in a second direction to pivot the pivot levers in a releasing direction, wherein the connecting member extends in opposite directions from the electromagnetic actuator and the electromagnetic actuator causes the connecting member to undergo reciprocating displacement along a straight line connecting between the connecting portions, as recited in Claim 3.

In contrast, Woodruff merely discusses an actuator 50 that includes a governor arm 100 for connection to a governor cable 42 which moves with a car, please see Fig. 2 of Woodruff. If the car falls at an abnormal speed, movement of the cable 42 is stopped by a governor. The stopping of the cable 42 by the governor actuates the actuator 50, to thereby generate a braking force which prevents the car from falling. Therefore, in Woodruff, the actuator 50 is actuated by the inertial force of the car. This is different from the electromagnetic actuator as set forth in the claimed invention.

Further, a threaded link rod 116 of Woodruff moves through pivotal movement of a lower pivot lever 118 connected to the end portion of the link rod 116. That is, the lower pivot lever 118 which causes the link rod 116 to move is arranged at the end portion of the link rod 116. Therefore, Woodruff does not teach or suggest the connecting member as claimed in Claim 3 that extends in opposite directions from the electromagnetic actuator and undergoes reciprocating displacement along a straight line connecting between the connecting portions of the connecting member with the pivot levers.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the actuator in Fig. 7 of Woodruff is a device that includes an arm 100, arm shaft 102, upper pivot lever 104, link bar 106, lower pivot lever 118, link rod 115, for example. The device taught by Woodruff is not an electromagnetic actuator as claimed.

In accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention as shown with respect to Fig. 11 for example, the actuator causes the connecting member to undergo reciprocating displacement along the straight line connecting between the connecting portions. Accordingly, the number of parts of the safety device can be reduced to achieve a reduction in manufacturing costs. Further, the connecting member can be arranged a same distance along the line of action of the drive force from the actuator, whereby the requisite strength of the connecting member can be made smaller and the manufacturing cost can be

further reduced. The features of the claimed invention are not taught in the applied art and therefore, the applied art cannot provide at least the advantages discussed above.

Additionally, Woodruff does not teach or suggest that the actuator is located along the plane extending between the axes of the pivot shafts, and the connecting member extends substantially a same distance in opposite directions from the electromagnetic actuator. For example, as best shown in Figs. 6 and 7 of Woodruff, a distance between the link rod 116 and the actuator 50 is much larger than a distance between the actuator 50 and the other pivot 118 located on the other end. Due to the difference in distance, the actuator 50 is not located substantially in the middle of the pivots 118 and is located below a plane formed between pickup shafts 110 and 120. Woodruff does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention discussed above.

Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Woodruff is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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